

ORTHODONTIC RESIDENCY INFORMATION

The Air Force Postgraduate Dental School and Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, within the 59th Medical Wing are unique in the Air Force in that it includes most dental postgraduate specialty training programs, known as residencies. Due to this unique situation, orthodontic treatment can sometimes be provided that would otherwise not be possible at other military treatment facilities.

Screening examinations for orthodontic treatment are held periodically to find specific patients with certain types of problems for these residencies. Active-duty patients and *children* (of active-duty and retired members) are needed for the residencies. The screening examinations for these programs are limited in number, and are usually held in the late spring in preparation for the arrival of the incoming residents each summer. In general, orthodontic treatment is provided on a priority basis to active-duty members; however, young growing patients are irreplaceable in providing our residents with a solid educational experience.

ACTIVE-DUTY PATIENTS, ON WHOM CONSULTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE ORTHODONTIC DEPARTMENT, SHOULD EXPECT THE FOLLOWING:

1. Active-duty patients with orthodontic needs are only seen for evaluation on the basis of a written referral from a military dentist. The speed with which the consult will be answered is dependent upon the type of treatment that is required. The first appointment will be a screening appointment that will determine each individual's treatment needs and if those needs would make an acceptable teaching case for an orthodontic resident. If your needs warrant orthodontic treatment, your name and information will be placed in our orthodontic patient selection database. Patients from this database will be chosen based upon the educational needs of the orthodontic residency, **NOT** on a "first come, first served" basis. Specific categories of patients, determined by the type of orthodontic treatment need, are required to give our orthodontic residents a comprehensive educational experience. Therefore, it is possible other patients would make better teaching cases, and you would not be selected for treatment. For this reason, if you have not received notification of treatment with a resident within **1 year**, you should seek treatment with a civilian orthodontist **at your own personal expense** if you desire treatment during your assignment here.

If your referring dentist requests a consult for limited or adjunctive orthodontic treatment to support another dental specialty, then you will be contacted for an evaluation by one of our staff orthodontists. This evaluation will determine your treatment needs and determine if you could be treated by an AEGD (Advanced Education in General Dentistry) resident or by another dental specialty in conjunction with your other dental needs.

2. When submitting a consult, *you must have at least 2 years remaining on station from August of the current year* (i.e. consult submitted January 2016, must have at least 2 years on station from August 2016) for consideration for comprehensive orthodontic treatment. The time-on-station requirement for limited treatment cases is determined on an individual basis due to the wide variations in treatment need.

3. Active-duty patients moving into the area on PCS orders, whose orthodontic treatment was initiated by a military orthodontist at another base, have top priority for continuation of care by staff orthodontists. They should call (210) 292-9038 or DSN 554-9038 for an evaluation appointment. *Active-duty members with braces placed by a civilian orthodontist must continue treatment through a civilian orthodontist at their expense.*

REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPENDENTS OF ACTIVE DUTY/RETIRED MEMBERS:

1. Family member spouses of Active Duty or Retired members are only seen in Orthodontics if they are being treated in conjunction with another dental specialty residency program (i.e. surgical, prosthodontic, etc) and must have a referral.

2. Children must range in age from 6-18 (19 if *full time* college attendance can be verified [depending on the severity of the misalignment and length of treatment]). Medical/orthodontic benefits of full time college students must end at age 23.

3. Active-duty dependents enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) cannot be seen in our program. Government regulation 'Title 10' restricts us from treating patients covered by insurance in which the premium is supplemented by government contributions. Patients may be evaluated for orthodontic treatment need. **However, enrollment in the TDP must be terminated once an individual is accepted for treatment, and the family must remain disenrolled for the duration of orthodontic treatment.** *There is one exception to the above rule; spouses over the age of 23 are not eligible for the orthodontic benefit under the TDP.* They may be evaluated for treatment, but will only be considered for acceptance if they have a dentofacial abnormality that is severe enough to require surgical and orthodontic intervention. Therefore, due to the

limited number of people who can be treated at the Orthodontic training program, it is recommended you investigate using the insurance benefit to accomplish your treatment desires.

4. Dependents *cannot* be currently undergoing orthodontic treatment by either a civilian or military orthodontist.
5. Active-duty dependents must be in the San Antonio area for 2 years from August of the current year.
6. ***Referrals are not needed for dependent children.*** Call 292-9038 for information on possible orthodontic screening.
7. Dependents moving into the area on PCS orders, whose orthodontic treatment was initiated by a military orthodontist at another base, must continue their care with a civilian orthodontist at their expense. If you are returning from overseas, please sign up for the TDP as soon as possible.
8. Dependents will be evaluated in late spring for possible selection--normally 1 May through 1 Aug.

Once evaluated, your screening sheet will be placed in the same patient database described previously for possible assignment. Remember, this is not a waiting list. And placement in this database is not a promise of treatment, since patient selection is based on the educational requirements of the residency. Please note that you will not remain in the patient database indefinitely. Information sheets will be purged from the patient database file 1 year after evaluation. If you have not been chosen within a year after your evaluation, you should seek treatment with a civilian orthodontist at your expense.

9. Once contacted, you must have sufficient retainability in the area to ensure the completion of treatment. Orthodontic treatment is not available at most bases, and continuation of care at another location is at the *patient's own expense*.

10. There is no cost for orthodontic treatment as part of our residency. You must be prepared to ***come 15 minutes early for appointments*** on a routine basis on the same day of the week to ensure continuity of your care with one staff orthodontist. Our appointments are longer than those in civilian practice, since all treatment must be accomplished by a resident and checked by a staff orthodontist. Our goal is to provide the highest quality care and provide the resident with the highest quality education.

11. Acceptance into the orthodontic department for treatment does not guarantee treatment for all your other dental needs. If you have a dental need requiring prompt attention, we suggest you seek civilian care if you are not an active-duty member. Elective crowns and bridges should be deferred until the completion of orthodontic treatment.

NOTE: You must be in good dental health before orthodontic treatment can begin. Please ensure that you have had a routine dental exam and cleaning within the last year, and you have had all necessary restorative dental work (i.e., fillings, crown, etc.) completed before we contact you for an orthodontic records appointment. If routine treatment is required when we call you for your records appointment, you will not be selected for the program.

RESERVISTS (ACTIVATED WITH ORDERS IN HAND) SUBMITTING CONSULTS TO THE ORTHODONTIC DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT:

1. The Reservist must be on consecutive orders for 3 years and is only seen for evaluation on the basis of a written referral from a military dentist.
2. The Reservist submitting consults for family member sons/daughters must be on consecutive orders for 3 years.
3. ***Referrals are not needed for dependents.*** Call 292-9038 to obtain information on possible orthodontic screening.
4. **Dependents of Reservists on active-duty orders must remain uninsured for the duration of orthodontic treatment if selected for treatment.**

If you have any questions regarding the above guidelines or wish to update your address or phone number(s), please contact the Orthodontic Department at 292-9038 or DSN 554-9038.

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